

REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA



EXECUTIVE FOREST AGENCY

FOREST SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

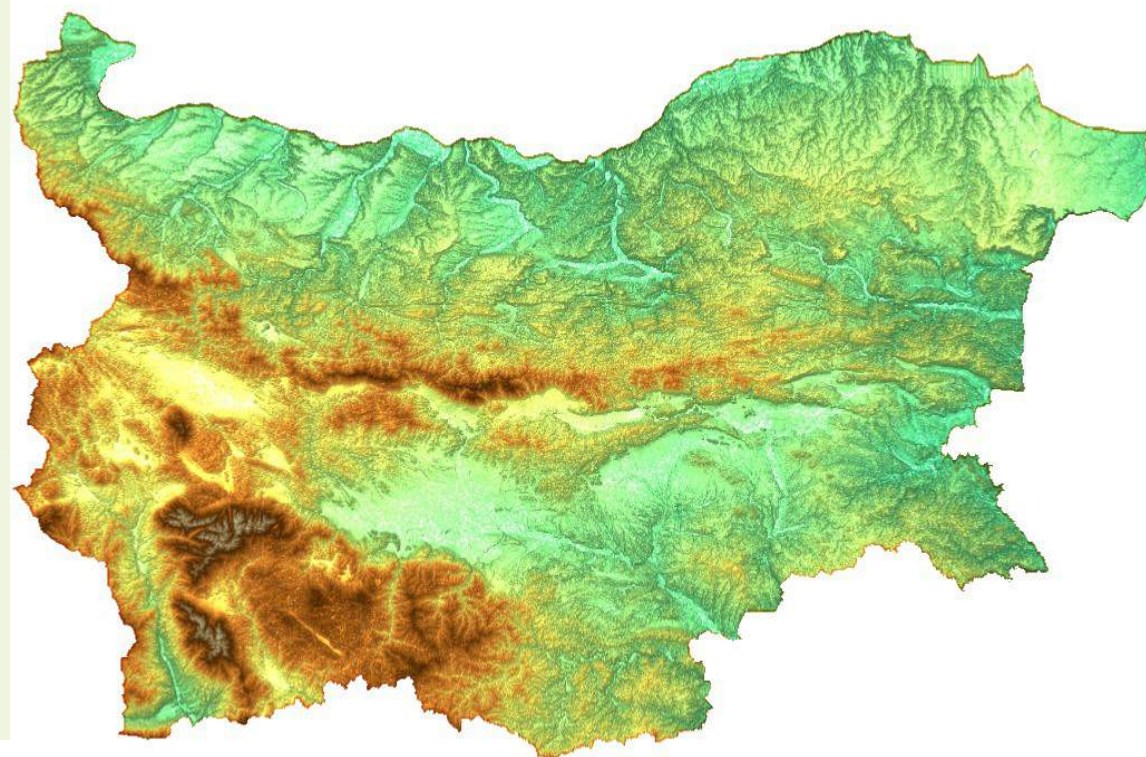
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Vision for the development of the forest sector:

NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2013 – 2020

“Towards 2020 z. Bulgaria will have viable, productive and multifunctional forests; sustainable, competitive and innovative forest sector; preserved biological diversity, quality and quantity of water resources in the forest territories. The sector will support the economic development of the country, will ensure conditions for adequate realization of the employees in it, will provide to a maximum extend for mitigation of climate change effects and will guarantee the maintenance of healthy environment.”





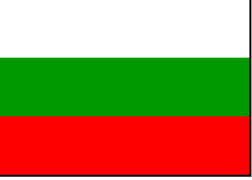
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Of all nature resources in Bulgaria the forests present the biggest share and are of primary importance





LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Forest Act*(in force from 09.04.2011)*

The new Forest Act guarantees the public interests, the right of ownership and protection of forests through:

- equality of the different types of ownership;
- reducing of the administration and decentralization of the responsibilities;
- separation of the control-and-administrative functions from the economic functions in the forest sector;
- participation of the society in the planning; obligatory implementation of long-term planning.



LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

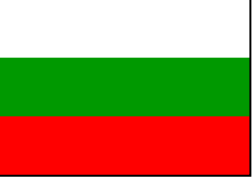


NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2013 – 2020

Adopted by the Bulgarian Government on 27.11.2013

Three strategic middle-term goals:

- Ensuring the sustainable development of the forest sector through achieving an optimal balance between the ecological function of forests and their ability to provide long-term material benefits and services;
- Enhancing the role of forests for ensuring economic growth in the country and more balanced social-and-economic development from territorial point of view;
- Increasing the input of the forest sector in the green economy.



LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



Based on the vision, mission and the strategic goals, the following priorities for the development of the forest sector up to 2020 are defined:

- Maintenance of viable, productive and multifunctional forest ecosystems, helping the mitigation of climate change consequences;
- Protection, restoration and maintenance of the biodiversity and the landscape diversity in the forest territories;
- Increasing the viability and the compatibility of the forest sector;
- Utilization of the forest potential in the development of green economy

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FOREST SECTOR IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2014 – 2023

Adopted by the Minister of Agriculture and Food in August, 2014

- Developed with EU funding – Operational programme
- Administrative Capacity
- Legal ground – Article 9 of the Forest Act
- Based on the National Strategy for the Development of the Forest Sector in the Republic of Bulgaria 2013 – 2020 ,
- The Strategic plan defines totally 20 Operational goals
- For their implementation 102 Actions are planned
- Total amount of needed funding – appr. 200 000 000 EUR
- Developed on the basis of broad public discussion with representatives from all stakeholders in the forest sector (more than 500 comments, proposals, etc.)
- Monitoring system is developed as well



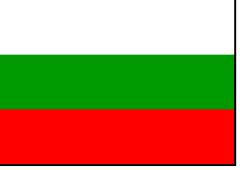
GOVERNMENT PROGRAMME FOR STABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA 2014 – 2018

Priority 14.2. Sustainable and multifunctional forest management

- Goals:**
- to include the civil society in forest resources management
 - to establish provident and firm environment for the development of SME in the field of timber harvesting and sales and ensure transparent tenders
 - to increase the forest share in green economy up to 3%
 - to establish new forests and implement sustainable management practices in the all forests

Priority 14.3. Legal measures for prevention of illegal logging and decrease of the trade with raw timber materials

- Goals:**
- to strengthen the measures for enforcement of the Forest Law in its provisions related to protection of forest territories
 - to establish unified system for issuing of electronic transportation tickets at real time
 - to propose legal changes in the respective regulations in order to improve the penalty implementation



LEGAL AND STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

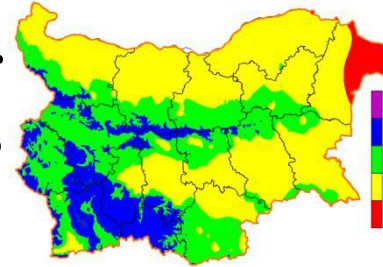


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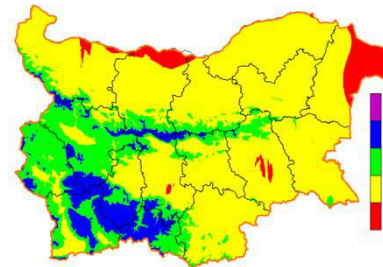
Forests and climate change

Programme of measures for adaptation of Bulgarian forests to climate change

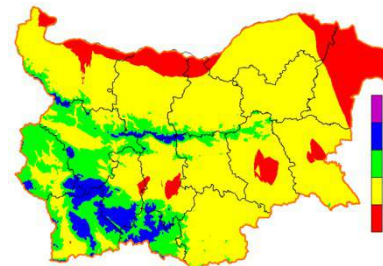
- Prepared from leading scientists and experts from the Executive Forest Agency under the project “FUTUREforest” -INTERREG IV C Program of EU;
- Approved in 2011 by the Minister of Agriculture and Food



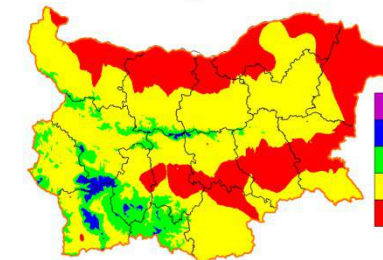
2020 г.
Index of De Marton at realistic scenario



2050 г.
Index of De Marton at realistic scenario



2080 г.
Index of De Marton at realistic scenario



2080 г.
Index of De Marton at pessimistic scenario



Structure of the forest sector

Economic Management Functions

6 regional State Forest Companies/ local units

Subunits – state forestry and hunting enterprises

- Forest Operations - silviculture, maintenance of forest roads etc.
- Harvesting - Supervision of harvesting and other operations by private companies
- Sale of Timber
- Sale of non Timber Products
- Hunting and Fishing management operations
- Forest protection (fires & pests)
- New Business Development

Control and Administration Functions

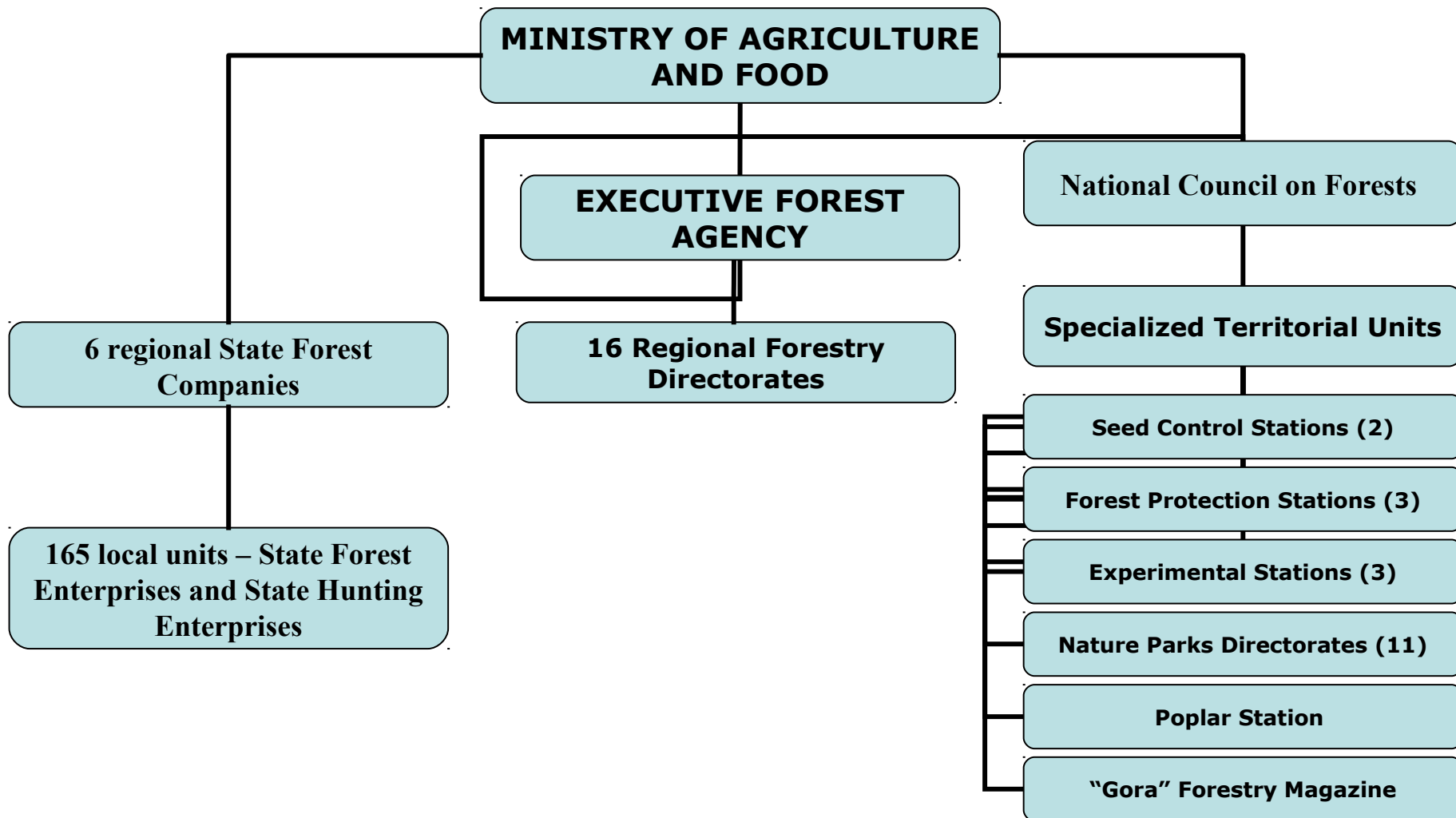
Executive Forest Agency

Forest policing (Policy & Strategy)

- Legislation
- Regulation/Control and inspection
- Forest inventory
- Support to private forest owners - extension services
- Forest protection – coordination, planning and control (erosion control, forest fire management)
- National data base
- Seed control
- Nature park management
- Research



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE





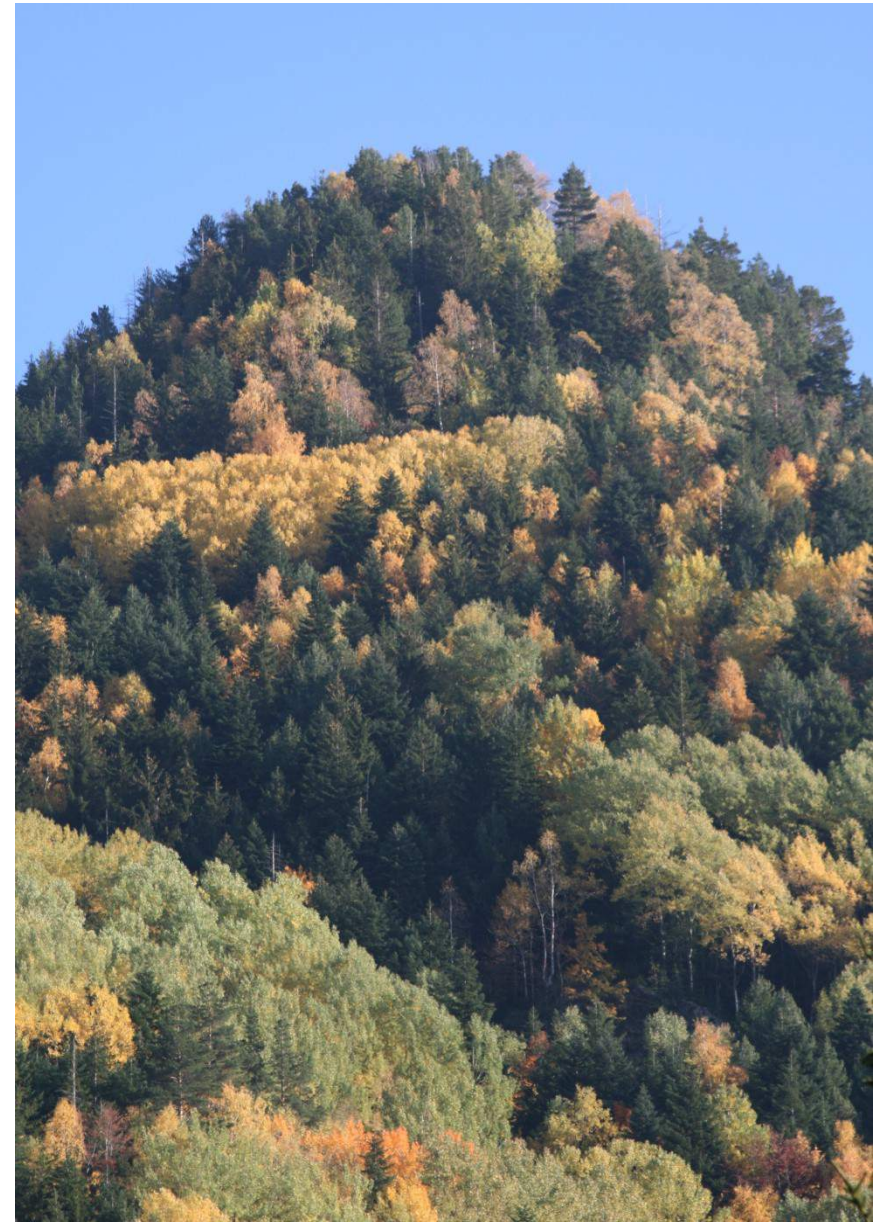
The forests in Bulgaria (data towards 31.12.2013)

Forest data:

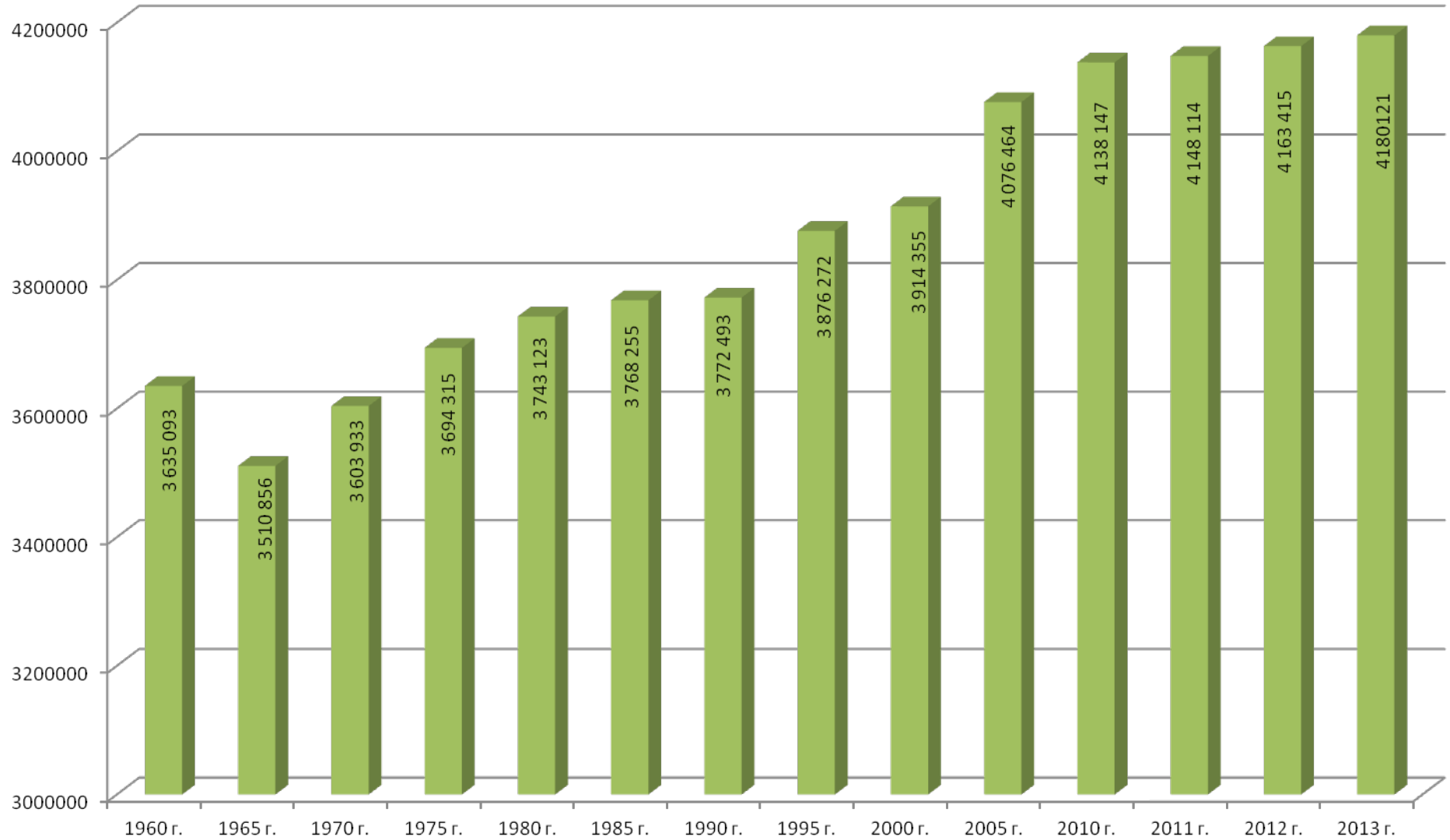
- 4 180 121 ha forest territories (about 37,4% of the country's territory);
- approximately 67 % broadleaved forests;
- 650 000 000 m³ total volume;
- 14.4 million m³ annual increment;
- 3.8 m³ – average annual increment per ha;
- 8 055 004 m³ annual harvesting (standing timber):
 - 4 397 897 m³ – from regeneration fellings
 - 3 657 107 m³ – from thinnings

Regarding their functions forests are divided as follows:

- protective;
- special;
- economic.

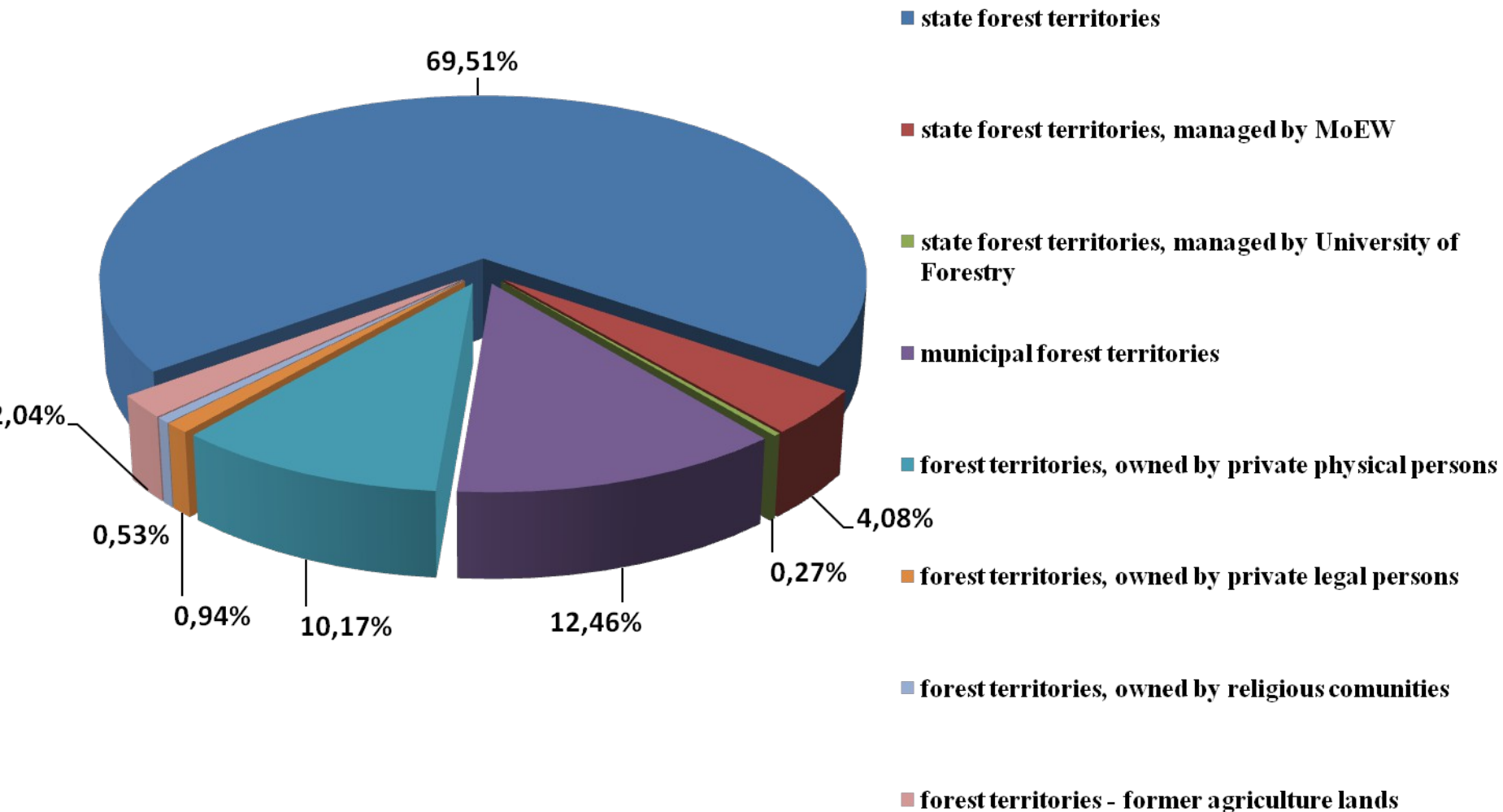


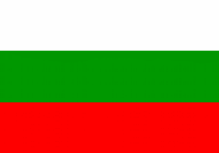
Changes in the forest territory (ha)



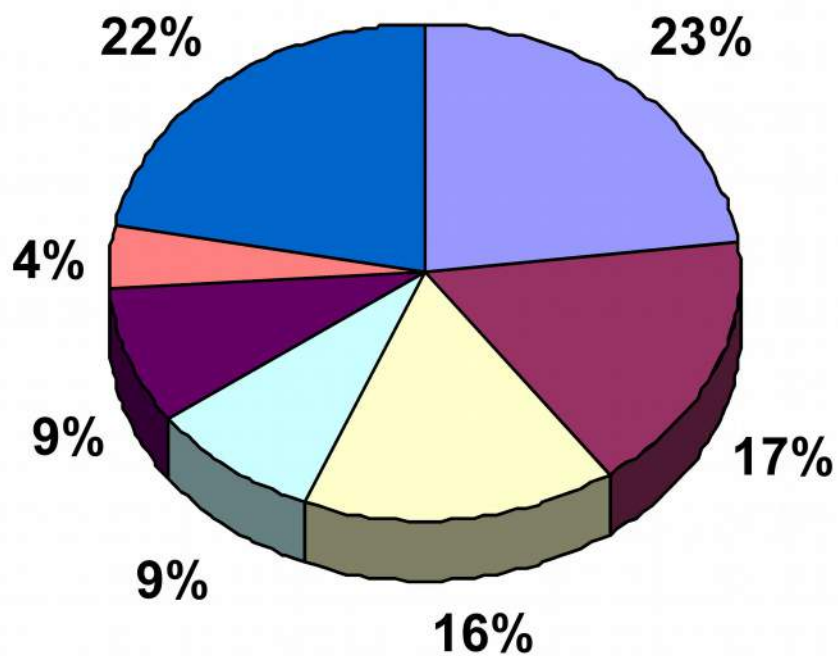


Distribution of the forest territories according to ownership (31.12.2013 г.)





Tree species distribution:



Wood and non-wood forest products - 2014

Wood products – 214 783 BGN

Nuts from forest tree species – 14 894 t

Mushrooms – 21 213 kg

Forest fruits – 121 125 kg

Medical plants – 276 375 BGN



Forest Ecosystem Services



Forest Act: Chapter seventeen PUBLIC ECO-SYSTEM BENEFITS FROM THE FOREST TERRITORIES

Art. 248. (1) Public eco-system benefits from the forest territories shall be the results from the specialized activities of its management.

- **(2) Public eco-system benefits from the forest territories shall be**
- **1. protection against erosion of soil from avalanches and floods;**
- **2. guaranteeing the quantity and quality of water;**
- **3. maintaining biological diversity;**
- **4. scanning, noise contaminants take over and maintain micro-climate;**
- **5. providing conditions for recreation and tourism;**
- **6. maintaining the traditional landscape;**
- **7. protection of the natural and cultural heritage;**
- **8. protection of infrastructure sites and equipment;**
- **9. slowing down and regulation of impacts from the climate changes.**

Art. 249. (1) The public eco-system benefits under Art. 248, Para. 2, when they are in favour of performing economic activity shall be paid.



BIODIVERSITY

- Third richest in biodiversity country in Europe;
- 3 National parks, 11 Nature parks and more than 700 protected areas;
- **Bulgarian forests protect:**
 - More than 80 % of the protected plants;
 - More than 60 % of the protected animal species

More than 55% of the forest territories are in NATURE 2000





Erosion control

The successful erosion control dates more than 100 years.

Main approach – complex utilization of hydro technical and forest melioration activities

Forest Watershed Management:

- 617 000 m³ barrages and thresholds;
- 395 000 m³ small stone thresholds;
- 597 000 m² wattles;
- 428 000 m bank low wattles;
- 194 000 ha anti erosion afforestation.





GAME MANAGEMENT

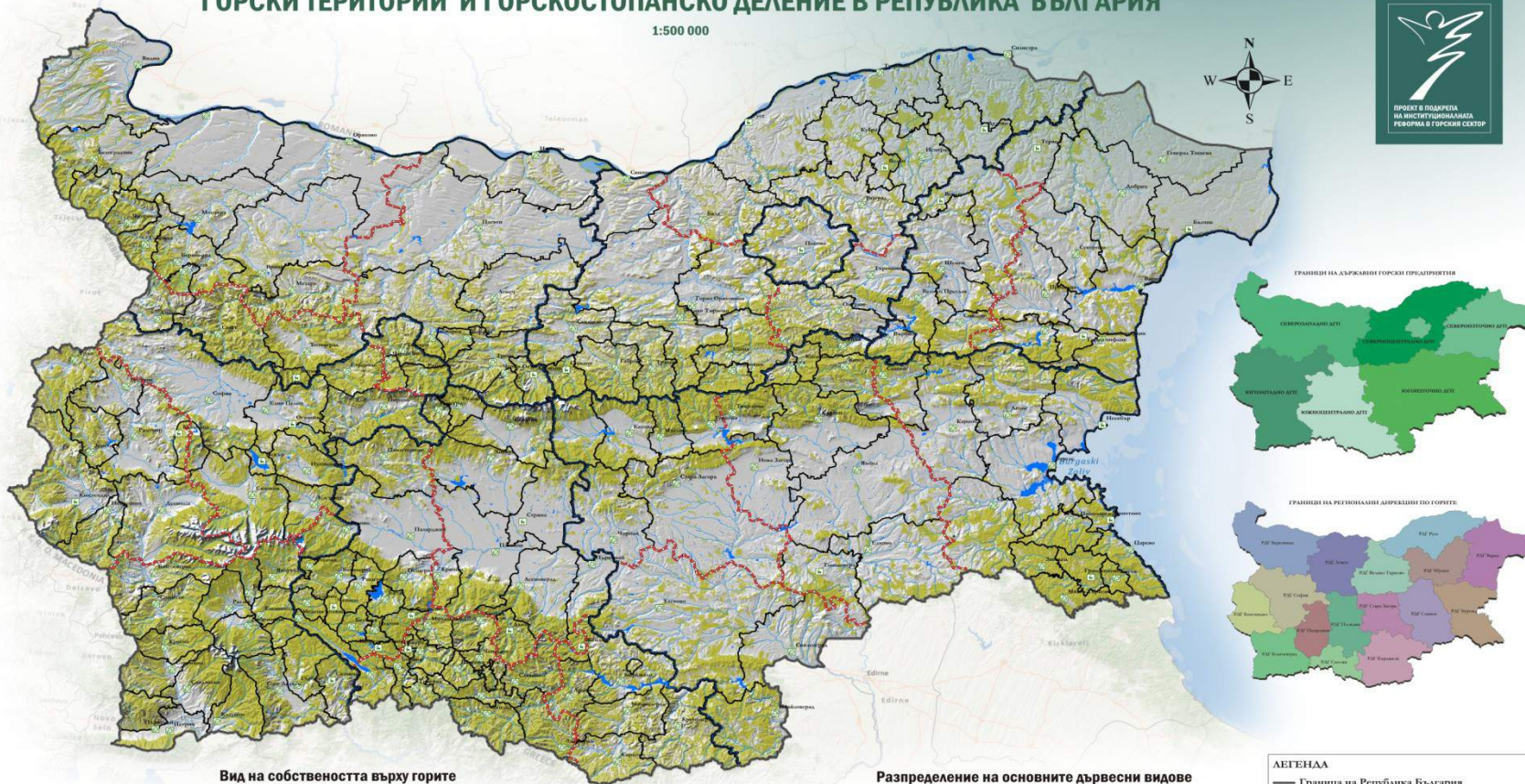
- **42 game species, of which 16 mammals and 26 birds.**
- **Several world records – red deer, wild boar, wild cat and others**
- **more than 130 000 hunters in the country**



Forest territories and Forest administrative division

ГОРСКИ ТЕРИТОРИИ И ГОРСКОСТОПАНСКО ДЕЛЕНИЕ В РЕПУБЛИКА БЪЛГАРИЯ

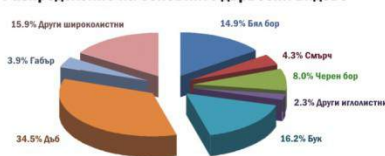
1:500 000



Вид на собствеността върху горите



Разпределение на основните дървесни видове



- ЛЕГЕНДА**
- Граница на Република България
 - Район на дясно на Държавно предприятие
 - Граница на Регионална дирекция по горите
 - Граница на ДГС/ДАС
 - Селание на ДГС/ДАС
 - Държавно горско стопанство
 - Държавно овно стопанство
 - Горски територии
 - Езера и язовири
 - Главни реки





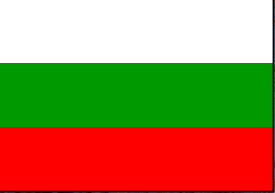
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POSSIBILITIES FOR FUTURE COOPERATION AT REGIONAL AND EU LEVEL

- Forest policy and international cooperation
- Preparation and implementation of joint bilateral / multilateral international projects (trans-boundary and trans-national cooperation) with financing granted by EU funds or other international funding
- Forest protection – forest fires, pests and diseases
- Ecosystem services from forests



Executive Forest Agency



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